



FOOD & NUTRITION SERVICES

June 2, 2023

Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) Tool Update

The SY 2023-2024 Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) tool is now available on the [Food and Nutrition Services Paid Lunch Equity](#) website. The tool can only be used with an Excel 2019 version or later. We apologize for the inconvenience this may cause. A PLE tool is also built into the Web Applications (DAS) system and our office will notify schools once the tool on the DAS system is ready. LEAs should use the price they last charged students (October 2022 in most cases) as the basis for their SY 2023-24 PLE calculation, even if those prices were charged during a year the LEA was not required to comply with PLE requirements. For example, LEAs that received flexibility under the PLE waiver during SY 2022-23 or were exempt based on FY 2022 Appropriations Act may use prices charged during SY 2022-23 to determine their PLE requirement for SY 2023-24. Further information is detailed in [SP 11-2023 Paid Lunch Equity: Guidance for School Year 2023-24](#).

The LEA can determine the SY 2022-23 Unrounded Price requirement either by completing the Annual Unrounded Requirement Finder using the SY 2010-11 weighted average price or by completing previous years' PLE tools and pulling this 22-23 price requirement from Section 1: Box A of the SY 2022-23 REPORT from the SY 2022-23 PLE tool. For assistance in completing the PLE Tool using the SY 2010-11 weighted average price, a list of SY 2010-11 Weighted Average prices by LEA is listed on the [Paid Lunch Equity](#) website.

Any LEA with a positive or zero balance in its nonprofit school food service account as of **June 30, 2022** is exempt from PLE pricing requirements. If the LEA meets this requirement and desires an exemption from PLE, the following survey must be completed: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6H2BFCV>.

The list of 2010 weighted average prices is posted on the PLE webpage to help LEAs complete the PLE tool.

As a reminder, the PLE requirement only applies to school lunch paid student prices.

Summer Workshops 2023

Below are tentative dates and locations for the 2023 Summer Workshops. Locations have not been confirmed for all areas:

- **St. Louis Area**
 - June 28-29 - Both days at Wentzville, MO
- **Kansas City Area**
 - July 26 - Cameron, MO
 - July 27 - Lee's Summit, MO
- **Central Area**
 - August (date TBD)

Training hours will be obtained to apply towards Professional Development requirements. You are invited to join our team for a day of in-person training and networking opportunity. During this summer's workshop activities, School Food Service staff will take home lots of big ideas, participate in networking opportunities, and engage in donated foods topics - we have something informative and enjoyable for all. We look forward to seeing all of you this summer!

Panel Discussion: *Menu's that Make Sense*

During the workshop we are looking for School Food Service experts to participate in a panel. Please contact [Barbara Shaw](#) if interested.

- Food Service Directors
- Distributors
- Industry
- School Chefs
- Retired Food Service Directors

Registration – COMING SOON!

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable (FFVP) Program for 23-24 SY



Fresh Fruit and Vegetable (FFVP) Program funds have been allocated for Fiscal Year 2024. The FFVP application and further details will be available soon.

To participate, Local Education Agencies (LEAs) must offer free fresh fruits and vegetables to all students during the school day, separately from the lunch or breakfast meals. The purpose of the program is to increase fresh fruit and vegetable consumption by students. For additional information, please reference the [FFVP Handbook](#) located on the [DESE](#), [FNS](#) website.

Supply Chain Assistance (SCA) Funds

The SCA webinar that was on May 9th is available here

<https://vimeo.com/828397002/2f1ac92085?share=copy>.

The SCA Funds webinar slides posted on our website here

<https://dese.mo.gov/media/pdf/lets-talk-tuesday-supply-chain-assistance-slides>

Food and Nutrition Services processed a reallocation payment to school districts that received the first round of SCA funds in school year 2021-2022. Schools received this payment on May 19, 2023.

SCA Rounds 2 and 3

- Review the updated FAQ document posted on our website here <https://dese.mo.gov/media/pdf/supply-chain-assistance-sca-frequently-asked-questions>
- The SCA funds can only be spent on un-processed or minimally processed food.
- School districts **MUST** complete the attestation survey to receive both round 2 and 3 funds. **This survey has been extended.** The FINAL date to complete the survey is **June 9, 2023.** The survey is found on the website under the [News and Updates](#) section or by following the link here <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z8MNHFN>
- A list of LEAs who have already completed the survey is posted here <https://dese.mo.gov/media/pdf/leas-sca-attestation-statement-survey-list-round-2->

and-3




- If your school district contracts with a Food Service Management company to provide meals, the school is encouraged to contact the FSMC representative to discuss supply chain disruptions including food price increases. The SCA funds must not be used to pay the regular monthly invoice for fixed-price meals. Many fixed price contracts have increased due to salary increases AND food price increases. The SCA funds can be paid to the FSMC, at the discretion of the school district, so that the FSMC can use the SCA funds to pay towards a food invoice that the FSMC pays directly to purchase food for the schools meals. We encourage you have these conversations with your FSMC representative.
 - The school district would retain the invoice for records and use proper coding. For example: the price of milk has increased due to supply chain disruptions. The school can decide to pay the FSMC a portion of the SCA funds so that the FSMC can pay the milk invoice using the SCA funds.
 - The purpose of the funds is to help provide relief for supply chain disruptions such as price increases and disruptions in food distribution brought on by the pandemic. If the school district does not purchase food directly, the school district may choose to send a check to the FSMC using the SCA funds to pay for an invoice. The school district must retain a copy of the invoice that the SCA funds are used to pay for by the FSMC.
- If the school district can not use the SCA funds, the district should not accept the funds and do not complete the survey. Any remaining funds will be reallocated to other schools.
- These funds do not expire. Since schools will receive round 2 and 3 funds before June 30, the school can roll-over the funds. We don't know what supply chain disruptions are still to come, so these funds are available to help your food service be prepared for supply chain disruptions and price increases.

Current Federal Support for School Meals

The current federal support for school meals is 40 cents for each lunch and 15 cents for every breakfast, this is set to expire on June 30.

Congress must understand the full impact of this loss in support. Here's what you can do:

Let SNA use your potential losses to let USDA know we can't afford another cut to your program! Use the links below to estimate your loss in revenue, share your story, and reach out to your Missouri legislators.

1.  Use SNA's [Revenue Impact Calculator](#) to estimate the loss in revenue for your program. Hold on to your number! These local details make all the difference when urging your legislators for their support.
2.  [Share your story with SNA!](#) How will this loss impact your program and the kids you serve?
3.  [Reach out to your legislators](#) and voice your support for the "Healthy Meals Help Kids Learn Act" and the "Helping Schools Feed Kids Act."

Why it matters: Decreased federal funding will fail to cover costs, leaving school meal programs in crisis. Your story has the power to make change. Together, we can ensure the success of school nutrition programs and the students relying on them.

Summer Recipe Suggestions

Check out these Summer Recipe Tips from Director of Food Service at Lee's Summit R7,
Lori Danella. <https://fox4kc.com/recipes/easy-meal-ideas-even-kids-will-eat-this-summer/>



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